



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18<sup>th</sup> District

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For Immediate Release  
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## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S FISCAL PLAN COULD LEAD TO HIGHER TAXES AND FEES**

*Constituents have already approved referendum to address long-term financial health*

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, who represents part of Milwaukee's northwest side, released the following statement in response to County Executive Scott Walker's financial reform plan:

“County Executive Scott Walker contends that the fiscal strategies he proposed yesterday will meet both short- and long-term challenges facing Milwaukee County. But, rather than decreasing the tax burden on County residents, many of his proposals would actually result in increased taxes and fees, with no real positive impact on the County's fiscal health. The County Executive's refusal to lobby for stimulus funds, for instance, means that property tax payers might have to face the full burden of future capital projects, rather than using federal dollars to supplement our costs.

“His plan includes leasing General Mitchell International Airport, which is a regional asset that uses no property tax dollars in its operation, to a private operator possibly based overseas. Our airport is widely regarded as one of the most effective and efficient airports in the nation. In fact, our airport is such a good place for airlines to do business that AirTran Airways recently announced plans to increase Milwaukee flights by more than 50 percent. Leasing the airport to a private, for-profit operator would result in higher fees for both airlines and passengers.

“It is unrealistic to believe the County Executive's approaches would achieve our long-term financial goals. My constituents want fiscal strategies that will work. That's why, in November, voters in my district—by a 14-point margin—approved the County Board's plan to provide property tax relief and dedicated funding for transit, parks, and paramedics. That's what real change and economic stimulus are all about.”

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